

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a coating for water blocking agents comprising a composition consisting essentially of a water-absorbing resin (a), a hydrophilic binder resin (b), and a solvent (c), wherein the hydrophilic binder resin (b) has an acid value of 40 mg KOH/g to 500 mg KOH/g, and to a water blocking construction method which utilizes such coating for water blocking agents.

The Examiner has not explicitly indicated whether the drawings filed with the application on August 7, 2001 have been accepted. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner make such an acknowledgement in the next communication from the PTO.

In the Office Action, the Examiner (1) objected to the abstract of the disclosure as containing two paragraphs and not describing the invention as claimed, (2) rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph regarding the phrase of "as essential component", requesting clarification of the claims, and (3) rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph regarding how a steel pile or a steel pipe is applied to joint spaces on walls, requesting clarification of the claims. It is appreciated that the Examiner now considers the invention to be patentable over the cited art.

In response to the Office Action, and to improve the clarity of the claims, claims 1 and 5 have been amended herein, substantially as suggested by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, directed to a coating for water blocking agents, and claim 5, directed to a

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water blocking construction method, as amended herein, are fully in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Also, the Abstract of the disclosure has been amended herein.

With respect to the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as described at page 1, lines 7-29 and page 25, line 12 to page 26 line 5 of the present specification, sheet piles and/or steel pipes to which the coating for water blocking agents have been applied and on which the water blocking coating film has formed are utilized to construct continuous walls. By means of the above water blocking coating film, empty joint spaces of continuous walls are filled, and thereby water or some other liquid is blocked from leaking out through these spaces.

For clarification purposes, Applicants have, in this Amendment, amended claim 5 to recite (2) constructing said walls by using a sheet pile and/or steel tubular pipe...

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph should now be withdrawn, and claims 1-7 allowed forthwith.

With regard to the Abstract, Applicants have herein amended the Abstract to describe the claimed invention in one paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the Abstract should be withdrawn.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-7 of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, DC telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

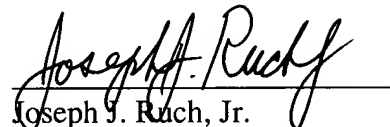
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE


Joseph J. Ruch, Jr.
Registration No. 26,577

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A coating for water blocking agents to fill empty joint spaces on continuous walls comprising a composition consisting essentially of a water-absorbing resin (a), a hydrophilic binder resin (b) and a solvent (c) ~~as essential components~~,

wherein said hydrophilic binder resin (b) has an acid value of 40 mg KOH/g to 500 mg KOH/g.

5. (Three times amended) A water blocking construction method to fill empty joint spaces on continuous walls which comprises ~~applying to said walls:~~

(1) applying to said walls a coating for water blocking agents comprising a composition consisting essentially of a water-absorbing resin (a), a hydrophilic binder resin (b) and a solvent (c) ~~as essential components~~, wherein said hydrophilic binder resin (b) has an acid value of 40 mg KOH/g to 500 mg KOH/g, or

(2) constructing said walls by using a sheet pile and/or steel tubular pipe for water blocking construction methods wherein the coating for water blocking agents according to (1) has been applied thereto.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

The abstract is changed as follows:

ABSTRACT

The present invention ~~has its object to provide a coating for water blocking agents which is (1) easy to apply to the substrate (e.g. joint sections of sheet pile), in particular (2) less peelable from the substrates (joint sections of sheet pile) in the step of driving them into the ground, (3) high in swelling capacity (for even thin films to be high in water blocking performance) and (4) readily removable from the substrate (e.g. joint sections of sheet pile) after use.~~ relates to a

A coating for water blocking agents to fill empty joint spaces on continuous walls comprising a composition consisting essentially of a water-absorbing resin (a), a hydrophilic binder resin (b) and a solvent (c) ~~as essential components,~~

wherein said hydrophilic binder resin (b) has an acid value of 40 mg KOH/g to 500 mg KOH/g. The present invention also relates to a water blocking construction method using the coating for water blocking agents.